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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to General Assembly decision 48/450. It provides a brief description of the progress achieved in Lebanon between 1 August 1993 and 31 July 1994 in implementing the provisions of resolution 47/155 of 18 December 1992.

I. GENERAL SITUATION

A. Government

2. Since the appointment of the current Government in October 1992, national reconstruction and rehabilitation have become manifest in the daily life of Lebanon. Business confidence has surged, the local currency has appreciated in value against the dollar and international donors have showed willingness to contribute to the reconstruction and economic recovery of Lebanon. Keeping pace with those developments and acting towards achieving the objectives of the Taef Agreement, the Lebanese Government has continued its efforts to resolve domestic political issues and to establish law and order throughout the country. However, the Government considers the continuing Israeli occupation in the south to be an obstacle to national recovery.

3. Although focusing attention on national reconciliation and reconstruction, the Government also attended to other issues, with the situation in southern Lebanon and the Middle East peace process being in the forefront. Lebanon closely coordinated its stand with Syria and opted not to participate in the multilateral Middle East peace talks on regional issues because of what it considered a lack of progress in its bilateral talks with Israel. Taking heed of important regional developments and changing perspectives, there has been a growing awareness of the need to coordinate economic policy with Syria with a view to achieving common market status in the medium term. An agreement on economic cooperation and coordination was signed between Lebanon and Syria in September 1993, and several protocols and economic agreements dealing with agriculture, energy, tourism, transport and transit were signed and approved by the Lebanese Parliament in February 1994.

B. Economy

4. The economy showed encouraging signs of improvement in 1993 under the structural and macroeconomic adjustment programme pursued by the Government. Annual growth of gross domestic product (GDP) was estimated at 7 per cent in 1993 (US$ 7.5 billion) compared to 4 per cent in 1992. The improved performance was powered by gross capital inflows of US$ 4.5 billion and by an estimated 21.5 per cent growth in private investment, which reached US$ 2.4 billion. Exports doubled in 1993, totalling just over US$ 1 billion, which represented less than 15 per cent of imports. The balance of payments showed a surplus of more than US$ 1 billion in 1993. Central Bank reserves amounted to US$ 1.6 billion by the end of 1993, up by US$ 175 million. Inflation fell from 131.1 per cent in 1992 to an estimated 8.9 per cent, the lowest level in

10 years. The Lebanese pound (LL) appreciated 6.9 per cent, from 1,838 to 1,711, against the United States dollar. Progress in public finance was equally encouraging: the public deficit fell from 56.2 per cent of expenditures in 1992 to 49.9 per cent in 1993. That fall resulted from an increase of 78.7 per cent in revenues, which rose from LL 982 billion to LL 1,755 billion, mainly as a result of improved collection.

5. During the first semester of 1994, the main financial and economic indicators showed that Lebanon continues to make progress towards a healthy recovery, notwithstanding a slow-down of the economy, as was evident from the drop in exports and the stagnation of investment in the productive sectors. The financial and construction sectors have continued to perform well.

6. The success of the Government in establishing the basis for financial and monetary stability during the past 18 months has enabled both a reorientation of planned expenditures and increased efforts towards economic recovery and activation of the reconstruction process. Planned public expenditures for 1994 amount to US$ 2.7 billion, up 25 per cent from 1993, and break down as follows: 36 per cent for current expenditures (60 per cent in 1993); 28 per cent for debt servicing (45 per cent in 1993); and 36 per cent for investment (15 per cent in 1993). Planned expenditures for defence, at more than 20 per cent of total planned expenditures (excluding reimbursement of debt), remain high compared to education (9 per cent) and health (5 per cent). The budget deficit is expected to be reduced from 50 per cent in 1993 to 42 per cent in 1994, which should contribute to increased economic and monetary stability and thus to economic recovery and growth.

7. The Government has stepped up efforts and assigned a high priority in the first semester of 1994 to supporting private-sector development. The basic thrust of the Government's economic policy seems to be sound. The focus on reducing the deficit, controlling inflation and stabilizing the exchange rate is gradually strengthening confidence and stabilizing the economy. The achievement of economic policy objectives will encourage economic recovery and contribute to the creation of a climate of growth and productive investment that will attract and orient the resources of the private sector and external finance towards reconstruction.

8. Socio-economic conditions at the household and individual levels continued to be unfavourable or difficult, despite the satisfactory macroeconomic performance. The delayed start of reconstruction activities and the resulting relative shortfalls in achieving economic recovery and infrastructure rehabilitation have compromised the alleviation of social conditions. The absence of government initiatives to stop and narrow the growing gap between rich and poor, as well as the lack of its participation in development during the recent period, are matters of considerable concern.

9. The public services delivery record improved to some extent during the first semester of 1994. The high cost of living has been a factor limiting the access of the poorer segments of the population, currently estimated at up to 50 per cent of the total population, to basic health and education services; as a result, the health and physical development of many children has been

impaired. A moderate wage settlement for the public sector, the first one since 1992, was finally approved by Parliament in July 1994.

10. There have been increased efforts during the period under review by the newly created Ministry of the Environment to start tackling the wide range of grave environmental problems. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank are leading efforts to support national policy-making and capacity-building.

11. In order to stamp out the cultivation of illicit crops and reduce drug trafficking, the Government of Lebanon, with the support of the Government of Syria, has redoubled its efforts during the period under review. Illicit cropping has become marginal, as confirmed by a mission of the International Narcotics Control Board during the second quarter of 1994. However, the situation in the northern Bekaa and Hermel districts is urgently in need of comprehensive support for income replacement and wide-ranging investment in public infrastructure and services. Drug trafficking and processing remain the subject of considerable concern.

12. Macroeconomic performance has been satisfactory during the reporting period. Fresh initiatives are nevertheless required to stimulate economic recovery and to deal with social and institutional problems. It is also crucial for the Government to adopt a number of structural measures, including ensuring the housing and reintegration of the displaced population; investing in human resources and retraining the labour force; initiating fiscal reform to establish a stable tax base and increase revenues in an equitable manner; and reforming the administration to re-establish a competitive management and efficient use of resources.

C. Emergency

13. The Government made a prompt and determined response on the diplomatic, political and humanitarian levels to the Israeli attacks against Lebanon following rocket shootings into northern Israel at the end of July 1993. It decided to upgrade the High Relief Committee (HRC) to a ministerial committee presided over by the Prime Minister. HRC is responsible for policy-making as well as the general direction and coordination of emergency relief operations.

14. For the first time in the many years of instability in southern Lebanon, there was a truly national response that involved all elements of the public and private sectors, supported by the United Nations system. Determined action resulted initially in meeting the acute emergency needs. In addition, the Government deployed all its limited resources. At the request of the Government, a United Nations inter-agency humanitarian needs assessment mission to southern Lebanon and West Bekaa established the emergency rehabilitation needs, the majority of which have been met.

D. Reconstruction

1. Recovery planning

15. The Government has continued to give priority to the planning process, with an increased focus on medium- and longer-term recovery and on development requirements. The final draft of Horizon 2000, a 10-year national plan, was presented to the Government by the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) early in 1994. The aim of the plan is for Lebanon to regain its position among the world's upper middle-income nations by the year 2002. The plan hinges on three lines of action: the comprehensive re-establishment of adequate basic infrastructure, including social infrastructure; a balanced regional distribution of public investment; and the promotion of private-sector development through incentives for increased savings. The plan will be implemented in three stages and at a cost of US$ 13 billion (including interest and loan service costs). Foreign loans and grants will constitute about 59 per cent (US$ 7.6 billion) of the total expenditure, with the Government's contribution being about 41 per cent (US$ 5.3 billion).

2. Implementation

16. The first phase comprises the National Emergency Rehabilitation Programme (NERP) and the Parallel Programme for Recovery and Development (PPRD). NERP was developed in 1992 and consists of a three-year programme amounting to US$ 2.24 billion that aims to rehabilitate public service infrastructure and alleviate social problems. NERP was prepared in close and extensive consultations with the World Bank; it comprises US$ 1,521 million in high-impact public investment, US$ 355 million in credit to the private sector and US$ 362 million in technical assistance.

17. PPRD comprises additional components identified as essential for implementation during the initial three years. It devotes one third of its total expenditure to expanding a number of NERP projects and two thirds to new projects in infrastructure. PPRD also aims to provide a more sustained enhancement of social services, housing and resettlement, sanitation and the environment, in an effort to consolidate both social stability and the dynamic of recovery among the Lebanese population. Successful implementation of the programmes will depend on taking firm action to undertake the fiscal adjustments and institutional reforms that are necessary to widen and improve the capacity for the operation and maintenance of facilities as well as to manage the debt burden.

18. Implementation of projects under NERP/PPRD was finally launched in mid-1993. Initial commitments concern chiefly the electricity, telecommunications, water, waste and education sectors. As of end-May 1994, there were 380 live contracts representing US$ 625 million of construction and consultancy work. In all, in July 1994 projects worth US$ 2.5 billion were either under execution, ready for execution or in the process of being tendered.

19. Important projects are under execution in the following key public services sectors: (a) electricity (the rehabilitation of thermal and hydropower plants

(US$ 66 million), the rehabilitation of transmission lines and substations (US$ 80 million), and the rehabilitation of the distribution network in the Greater Beirut area (US$ 42 million) and outside the Greater Beirut area (US$ 52 million)); (b) telecommunications (switching contracts for 1 million lines (US$ 78 million) and a consultancy for network rehabilitation (US$ 13 million)); (c) water supply (firut-year water-supply rehabilitation works (five packages, US$ 36 million)); (d) transport (the development of the east runway and car parks at Beirut International Airport (US$ 80 million), the rehabilitation and upgrading of roads and services in the Beirut area (US$ 30 million), the upgrading of roads and services in the southern Beirut suburbs (US$ 20 million), a Beirut periphery belt consultancy (US$ 13 million), and a design and supervision consultancy for the Beirut International Airport (US$ 13 million)); (e) education (rehabilitation and equipment for public schools buildings (US$ 24 million)); and (f) agriculture and irrigation (a smallholder livestock project in the Bekaa (US$ 20 million)).

20. It can be expected that by early 1995, completed rehabilitation projects will yield significant benefits to the population, particularly in the areas of electricity (supply has already increased to 15 hours per day, compared to half that amount 18 months ago); communications (the installation of electronic telecommunications exchanges is proceeding according to schedule); education (half of the 1,260 public schools have already been rehabilitated); waste management (adequate garbage collection and disposal in the Greater Beirut area); and transportation (improved circulation into and inside Greater Beirut). The rehabilitation of the northern and southern suburbs of Beirut, which will introduce basic infrastructure services and roads into two densely populated areas in the city, will be under way by the end of 1994.

21. Social and living conditions in rural areas and in urban and industrial zones also warrant the attention of decision makers. Adequate investment in social infrastructure, in basic education and vocational training, in poverty alleviation, and in environmental protection will need to be implemented during the years ahead. Moreover, successful reconstruction hinges on the rehabilitation and reform of public administration. Efforts towards that end have barely started.

22. The reconstruction of the Beirut central district is taking place under the control of CDR through a private-sector company comprised of representatives of former owners, lessees of property and investors. The Lebanese Company for Development and Reconstruction of Beirut Central District (SOLIDERE) was created early in 1994 with a total capital of US$ 1.8 billion. The scheme for the reconstruction of central Beirut covers an area of 1.6 million square metres, including 450,000 square metres of reclaimed land on the sea front; it is to be completed over a 25-year period. The first phase will start in September 1994 with the reconstruction of the public infrastructure of the city centre. The reconstruction of the old souks area has been the subject of an international design competition and work is expected to start in 1995.

3. Financing

23. NERP/PPRD projects are financed by the Government of Lebanon, external sources and the private sector. The Government usually complements between 10 and 20 per cent of the total cost of project financing, in addition to providing financing for projects for which no external resources are available. As of December 1993, just under US$ 100 million had been provided by the Government. By the end of May 1994, available funding from external public sources amounted to US$ 1,635 million, of which US$ 335 million consisted of grants and US$ 1,300 million consisted of loans. The main funding sources are the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Saudi Fund for Development, the Kuwait Fund for Economic and Social Development, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank/European Union, and the Government of Italy, which together account for 85 per cent of available funding. The United Nations system, apart from the World Bank, has made available a US$ 10 million soft loan through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and technical assistance grants of nearly US$ 40 million. In June 1994, the World Bank made available a US$ 57.2 million loan for irrigation rehabilitation and development, as well as a US$ 19.9 million technical assistance loan for the Ministry of Finance (in addition to an emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction loan of US$ 175 million provided in 1993).

4. Management

24. CDR, the national coordinating agency, has continued to perform at a high standard during the reporting period. Its efficient performance has been linked with a transparent system of implementation. With a view to improving its capacity, CDR is in the process of formalizing its internal organization and increasing its staff. CDR is also in the process of establishing a programme management information system centred around an integrated database that will cover a wide range of the main functions of CDR.

5. Resource mobilization

25. Throughout the reporting period, national authorities continued their efforts to sensitize donors and to mobilize resources for NERP. There is a widespread awareness at the government level that it is urgent to rehabilitate the infrastructure and reactivate the economy, without which the country will increasingly risk becoming regionally marginalized. There is concern about the mobilization of adequate levels of assistance, particularly of grants, to finance NERP. The difficulty in mobilizing resources can be explained, according to officials and private-sector leaders, by the Middle East peace process, which has not yet made satisfactory progress on the Lebanese track. A comprehensive settlement in the Middle East will facilitate a global coordinated effort for Middle East reconstruction, with the particular assistance of the oil-rich Arab States.

26. During the reporting period, the Government has aimed to establish a legal and regulatory framework for developing financial and capital markets and creating mechanisms for launching new financial instruments in order to be able

to attract Lebanese private capital as well as international finance. That aim is part of a wider approach pursued by the Government, with the support of the United Nations system, to mobilize and to apply the contribution of the Lebanese people themselves, whether domestic or expatriate, to the country's human, technical and financial resources.

27. An encouraging development of the review period has been the increasing international recognition, on the part of countries and international agencies, of the country's stability and of its promising and active economy. Restrictions on dealing with Lebanon have been lifted and export-credit guarantees have been reinstated by the main industrialized countries. There has been considerable interest from the private sector in exploring and investigating the possibilities for financing and implementing reconstruction activities. A significant development was the return to Lebanon of a number of important Lebanese international enterprises, which are seeking to re-establish their operating base in Lebanon and develop local business.

E. Displaced persons

28. A particularly important issue is the return and reintegration of displaced persons: about 90,000 families or roughly 500,000 persons were displaced during the 1975-1991 period. By mid-1994, an estimated 17,000 families had been reintegrated into their places of origin. During the period under review, the Government has restored security in the areas of displacement, which was reinforced in July 1994 by an important deployment of the Lebanese army in the upper Metn, Aley and Chouf districts. The Government has also set up reconciliation committees in the majority of villages of return. All agricultural lands and private properties have been returned to their rightful owners.

29. The Government provides limited financial support to encourage families to return and reintegrate in their places of origin. Government efforts have given priority to evicting squatters from public buildings and illegally occupied houses. By the end of May 1994, 15,800 orders for eviction were issued and 12,700 had been implemented. Detailed needs assessment has been initiated for the rehabilitation of the physical infrastructure in villages of return, to be implemented by CDR and technical line ministries. Limited support for field operations and community development is provided by non-governmental organizations in cooperation with the Ministry for the Displaced. The initiation of the technical assistance programme by UNDP, in cooperation with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), as of 1 July 1994, will considerably strengthen the operational capacity of the Ministry.

30. During the summer of 1994, the Government plans to provide financial support to 8,000 families in 26 villages of return for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of housing units. The main objectives are not only to support housing reconstruction and redevelopment of communities but also to provide permanent gainful employment opportunities and steady income flows. The lack of capacity and of adequate funding have hampered the return programme. In that context, the Parliament has approved US$ 450 million (including US$ 10 million

for social infrastructure) to complete the programme of return and the socio-economic rehabilitation of the returning displaced, as well as US$ 100 million for southern Lebanon. However, most of those resources are not readily available. The Office of the United Nations Coordinator, in cooperation with UNDP, is expected to support the Minister for the Displaced with his fund-raising efforts.

31. The problem of the majority of the 130,000 stateless and undocumented persons that have lived in Lebanon for an extended period was finally settled in July 1994, when the Government decided to grant them Lebanese nationality.

II. ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

32. The improved stability and growing confidence in the prospect of reconstruction and development are exemplified in the increased presence of the United Nations organizations that were established in Lebanon during the reporting period. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (country director based in Syria), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (also covering Jordan and Syria) and the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) established a field presence in Lebanon in 1994. In addition, the International Labour Organization (ILO) announced the return to Beirut of its regional office for the end of 1994 and the Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (ESCWA) decided in June 1994 to relocate its permanent headquarters in Beirut.

33. United Nations system operational activities involving international personnel in outlying areas increased significantly during the reporting period, particularly in southern Lebanon in the areas of humanitarian assistance, emergency rehabilitation, environmental health and agriculture, and in the Bekaa in the areas of integrated area development, drug control enforcement, environmental health and agriculture.

34. The provision of assistance to Lebanon by the United Nations has been managed at the central level by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. At the field level, the programme of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL) functions as the Office of the United Nations coordinator and ensures the coordination of the activities of the United Nations system.

A. United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon

35. During the period under review, the UNARDOL resident coordinator has continued to provide leadership and direction to the activities of the United Nations system in support of the national objectives and programmes of reconstruction and development of Lebanon.

36. Within the context of the Government's plans to implement a wide-ranging reconstruction programme, UNARDOL has successfully coordinated a broad range of activities designed to move smoothly from emergency to rehabilitation. A

socio-economic needs assessment was undertaken in southern Lebanon by UNARDOL and a priority support programme of US$ 12 million was identified. While rehabilitation work is ongoing in different sectors, UNIFIL and the UNARDOL Coordinator are holding consultations on ways and means of enhancing rehabilitation work and providing support to local government with a view to comforting the situation of the local population. To ensure the required resources, UNARDOL is expected to undertake further resource mobilization.

37. UNARDOL, jointly with UNDP, has begun to advocate the promotion and application of the concept and of sustainable human development. UNARDOL has continued to provide policy advice on key issues, including institutional renewal and development, poverty alleviation and social development. The UNARDOL coordinator has continued to maintain liaison and entertain consultations and cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with respect to their policy and programme support for Lebanon.

38. The absence of a clear decision of the Government identifying the institution responsible for technical cooperation management has affected the efficiency of the United Nations system and other donor support. UNARDOL and UNDP have advised the Government on that matter and a technical cooperation activity is expected to start soon. The United Nations technical cooperation in Lebanon is also under review within the context of the preparation of the country strategy note.

39. UNARDOL has continued to update, expand and improve its database on development cooperation, which comprises more than 600 projects. That has enabled the regular dissemination of information to all development partners in the areas of economic development, reconstruction and economic assistance. The database also feeds into the Development Cooperation Report, of which a new issue will be distributed in September 1994.

40. Preliminary data on external assistance compiled by UNARDOL indicate that US$ 131 million was disbursed by donors during the year 1993, compared to US$ 158 million and US$ 95 million in 1991 and 1992 respectively. Performance for 1994 is expected to greatly improve due to the intensification of reconstruction activities. Of the total disbursements of external assistance, disbursements by the United Nations system amounted to US$ 14.9 million, compared to US$ 11.9 million and US$ 6.4 million in 1991 and 1992 respectively. United Nations system assistance is provided exclusively on grant terms. The improved performance of the United Nations system in 1993 is largely due to emergency rehabilitation assistance for southern Lebanon. Disbursements for United Nations development activities in 1993 were significantly higher than in 1992 but remained small in absolute terms. Disbursements made by UNDP amounted to US$ 2.9 million in 1993, compared to US$ 1.9 million in 1992. The above figures do not include disbursements made by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon: US$ 26.8 million in 1991, US$ 35.6 million in 1992 and US$ 35.9 million in 1993.

41. The coordinated response to the emergency that occurred in southern Lebanon and the West Bekaa has been a major accomplishment of the office of the UNARDOL coordinator. The coordination of humanitarian assistance in support of

government action took place through the Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergency Management, which during an acute emergency is upgraded and functions at the level of the United Nations Coordination Committee of Chiefs of Missions. The Working Group, which brings together representatives of UNHRC as well as the leading donors (including international non-governmental organizations), has proved an effective mechanism for avoiding duplication and maintaining the coherence and focus of humanitarian assistance efforts, as well as for monitoring and reviewing progress made.

42. United Nations system activities, in cooperation with HRC and the non-governmental organization community involved monitoring the situation and people's needs, and reporting regularly thereon to the Government and all development partners; providing advice and support to HRC for the management of the emergency operations; providing emergency relief during and immediately after the acute phase of the crisis; mobilizing resources for housing reconstruction, the rehabilitation of agriculture, primary health care and other social needs; and preparing and implementing emergency rehabilitation assistance in various other sectors.

43. One important project activity has been the emergency reconstruction of 622 houses and 24 social infrastructures between September 1993 and 15 June 1994 by Habitat, under the supervision of the UNARDOL coordinator. That project, which was made possible through advance funding of US$ 5 million from the Central Emergency Fund (CERF) in August 1993, has been unanimously praised by the Government and by development partners. The coordination and excellent cooperation between the United Nations agencies working in emergency assistance and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has contributed to the results obtained.

44. The UNARDOL coordinator has continued to promote and support the activities of the different inter-agency working groups and task forces engaged in development programmes. There are inter-agency working groups on the return and rehabilitation of the displaced, on education, and on the environment.

45. UNARDOL has provided ad hoc support to the initiatives of non-governmental organizations. In that regard, specific attention has been given to activities related to conflict resolution and education for human rights, peace and democracy, notably the programme sponsored by the International Peace Research Association and the meetings organized by the Lions Club and the Lebanese Peace Committee.

46. UNARDOL has continued to convene regular meetings of donor representatives, which have been instrumental in channelling resources for a number of priority needs and bringing together donors. Bilateral contacts with donor representatives have been maintained and the UNARDOL coordinator has visited a number of donor countries. UNARDOL has maintained close cooperation with the World Bank with a view to joining efforts as well as to promoting joint financing arrangements.

47. Following the escalation of violence in southern Lebanon at the end of July 1993, the Government requested United Nations assistance and a consolidated appeal was launched by the Secretary-General based on the findings of a United

Nations inter-agency mission. The UNARDOL coordinator played an active role in the follow-up of the appeal with donors. The Government of Kuwait generously contributed US$ 25 million at the end of 1993. Important contributions were also made by Austria, Italy, the Arab Gulf Fund for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), the Islamic Development Bank, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Council of Arab Ministers of Health and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), Habitat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and non-governmental organizations. Advance funding of US$ 5 million from CERF in August 1993 served to reconstruct all the housing destroyed in the UNIFIL zone. The Government of Lebanon contributed US$ 1 million towards the reimbursement of the advance. Other contributions were made by Denmark and Sweden. With respect to emergency housing reconstruction in southern Lebanon, the Government has requested further assistance from the United Nations to help in meeting needs created in earlier years. US$ 5 million has been requested, of which another US$ 1 million would be contributed by the Government of Lebanon.

48. To meet the challenge of moving smoothly through the peace-development continuum, substantial resources are required that have been increasingly difficult to mobilize, mainly on account of changed priorities in the region. As indicated, it is urgently necessary to improve the situation of the local population in southern Lebanon by meeting their basic needs (US$ 12 million). It is equally urgent to intensify efforts towards institutional renewal and capacity-building and the promotion of sustainable human development; in that respect, requirements have been estimated for an initial three-year period at more than US$ 200 million, of which only a small part is currently available. Finally, meeting the needs for settling and reintegrating the tens of thousands of displaced persons will require considerable additional resources. The UNARDOL coordinator has intensified efforts to mobilize resources, in particular through government cost-sharing during recent months.

B. United Nations Secretariat

49. During the period under survey, the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat undertook a mission to Lebanon to assess the training needs of the public sector and to design a proposal to reorganize the National Institute of Public Administration in Beirut.

50. Following the escalation of violence in southern Lebanon in July 1993, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat carried out an inter-agency mission to Lebanon for the preparation of a consolidated appeal for the population in the areas affected by the conflict. The appeal, which was launched on 20 August 1993, covered, inter alia, the areas of housing, emergency food aid, agriculture, health care, water supply/sanitation and education.

51. In view of the urgent need to expand reconstruction activities to other villages, in April 1994 the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and Habitat jointly reiterated the appeal to the international community to contribute

further to the replenishment of CERF, to which the Government of Lebanon, as an expression of its appreciation of the results obtained, has already contributed US$ 1 million.

52. ESCWA, through the joint ESCWA/FAO Division, undertook the following projects: a national training workshop on farm management and project planning and analysis; a study on the rehabilitation of the agricultural credit system; and an assessment and evaluation of rural development policies and programmes. In addition, a farm data handbook and a study on the marketing of agricultural products, both initiated in 1993, are expected to be completed by 1994. In the field of transport, assistance to the Government of Lebanon included a hydrographic survey and nautical charting; advice on the management, rehabilitation and development of the port of Beirut; and assistance in the establishment of free zones, transport policy and planning, the administration of the transport section, and transport training, including a proposal for the restructuring of the Ministry of Transport. In the field of social development, two advisory missions on accessibility to the disabled were undertaken.

53. ESCWA assistance in the field of industry, science and technology covered the courses and meetings:

(a) A training course on the integration of science and technology in development planning and management. ESCWA and UNIDO were requested to assist in organizing a training course on technology negotiation for high-level officials and decision makers in the private sector;

(b) An expert group meeting on the substitution of ozone-depleting substances in the ESCWA region. As a follow-up, ESCWA and UNIDO were requested to organize a regional course to train engineers working in industries that are considered to be heavy producers of ozone-depleting substances in alternative technologies;

(c) Regional advisers assisted in preparing a study on the production process and environmental effects of cement factories in northern Lebanon and recommended measures to deal with environmental problems. They also assisted in identifying environmental hazards in connection with the open dumping of waste by a factory utilizing asbestos.

Macroeconomic policies

54. A study on economic reform and reconstruction during the period 1990-1992 was prepared and published by ESCWA.

Social development

55. Assistance concentrated on advisory services on accessibility to the disabled; two missions were undertaken during the period covered.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

56. The year under review marked the mid-term of the 1992-96 Programme of Cooperation. The UNICEF-assisted programme is being implemented in the context of considerable political change. The new political climate has provided an opportunity for UNICEF, through the medium-term programme, to help the country achieve the United Nations Global Goals for Children for the 1990s.

57. A number of achievements have been made in the health sector. Based on a primary health-care strategy, a national health policy has been formulated and a contribution has been made to the rehabilitation of the health infrastructure of the country. In cooperation with WHO and other international organizations, preparatory activities have been undertaken towards developing and strengthening the primary health-care system, especially in underserved regions.

58. During the reporting period, UNICEF made two distributions (October 1993 and March 1994) of essential drugs to 700 dispensaries in the private and public sectors.

59. The latest immunization coverage figures indicated that 87 per cent of children under one year old are immunized against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and poliomyelitis, and that 65 per cent of them are immunized against measles. Since the beginning of 1992, no cases of poliomyelitis have been reported.

60. Maternal and child health services have improved considerably and increased focus has been placed on the promotion of breast-feeding. Five public and six private hospitals have given a commitment to become baby-friendly hospitals; they are used as sentinel sites for the collection of information on the incidence of communicable diseases. Eight training courses on breast-feeding and lactation management were organized for 476 health professionals in 10 hospitals.

61. Assistance has been provided, under the programme of water supply and sanitation and diarrhoeal diseases, to remedy the increased incidences of water-borne epidemics reported from all regions of the country.

62. In the field of education, assistance has been provided to establish a computerized database in the Ministry of Education and to train the staff of the Centre for Education Research (CERP). A global education project was initiated in 1993, in collaboration with the UNICEF Regional Office in Amman, the University of Toronto/Canada and the Lebanese National Core Team. Various pilot training workshops were also held and a variety of educational materials were supplied for 75 pilot schools. Furthermore, funds received for the emergency programme in 1993 facilitated the rehabilitation of 53 damaged schools in southern Lebanon.

63. In the implementation of the Education for Peace Project, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to formulate a clear policy and build an appropriate structure to meet the needs of the non-formal education sector. Training for 2,141 educators from formal and non-formal sectors was conducted from January to November 1993. In addition, about 1,000 educators are being trained from May 1993 to the end of summer 1994.

D. United Nations Development Programme

64. The reporting period witnessed a joint effort with the Government to translate into action the Third Country Programme for Lebanon. Implementation of the project was initiated in the following three areas: (a) reactivation of the public sector through support to economic management and public administration reform; (b) social reconstruction; and (c) economic revitalization through balanced development.

65. UNDP prepared a position paper and opened a dialogue with the Government and non-governmental organizations to make the central theme of sustainable human development operational. A number of initiatives were undertaken and projects were developed in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank/METAP.

66. With respect to the reactivation of the public sector, at the request of the Government and following a programme approach a comprehensive proposal for the reactivation and rehabilitation of the public administration sector was prepared. As a first step, an Institutional Development Unit (IDU) and a Technical Cooperation management Unit (TCU) were established, both projects amounting to US$ 1.2 million. UNDP also assisted in the implementation of two projects aimed at the rehabilitation of statistics administration and of fiscal policy and administration. A comprehensive programme proposal, including customs and tax reform, is still under consideration by the Government.

67. In addition, UNDP contributed to the implementation of a UNDP/FAO project entitled "Rehabilitation of the Ministry of Agriculture, phase II", which aimed at improving the management capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as to the UNDP/International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) reactivation of the Civil Aviation Administration, which witnessed good progress during the reporting period, and it is expected that project objectives will be achieved by 1995. UNDP contributed to the formulation of two other projects: one on technical assistance for the creation of a trade information centre and the other on technical assistance for the preparation of a tourism master plan.

68. In the area of social reconstruction, UNDP, in cooperation with UNV and UNCHS, started implementing a programme for the reintegration of displaced persons. Technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of the Displaced and to the returnees directly, mainly through the reconstruction of housing units (replicating the experience gained in southern Lebanon during the previous year) and the promotion of social and economic opportunities in areas of return.

69. In addition, a joint UNDP/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) project was launched for the rehabilitation of the Directorate General of Antiquities and archaeological excavations in the Beirut City Centre.

70. To improve the socio-economic condition of women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) launched a four-year project to strengthen institutional capacity to provide services in the fields of credit, training and business counselling. A preparatory phase was initiated to identify the needs and constraints of women entrepreneurs, as well as the capacity of financial

institutions to serve small enterprises and women. Parallel activities have also been undertaken, such as the development of a gender training capacity in the region and the preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

71. In the area of balanced development, in cooperation with UNDCP the formulation of the integrated rural development for the Baalbek Hermel area was finalized and the programme became operational early in 1994 (US$ 4.2 million over 18 months). Whereas the long-term objective is to bring about comprehensive infrastructure and socio-economic development, the first phase of the programme aims at achieving income replacement in areas previously under illicit cropping.

72. To achieve the policy objective of poverty alleviation and in order to counteract depopulation in rural areas, the Government is planning to establish a Community Development Fund (CDF) with the assistance of UNDP. The Fund will provide finance and technical assistance to rural communities for social infrastructure projects.

73. UNDP assisted Habitat in the execution of the Emergency Housing Reconstruction Programme in southern Lebanon.

74. Finally, UNDP launched a Transfer of Know-How through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) project to tap the expertise of Lebanese expatriates. The umbrella advisory services and technical support services of the project at the programme level served to finance several inter-agency and sectoral missions, training activities and participation in workshops and conferences.

E. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

75. A full account of the current activities of UNRWA in Lebanon will be contained in the annual report of the Commissioner-General to the General Assembly covering the period 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994. A brief summary of the major activities carried out by UNRWA on behalf of Palestine refugees in Lebanon during the period mid-1993 to mid-1994 is provided below.

76. With reference to General Assembly resolution 47/155 and General Assembly decision 48/450, it should be emphasized that UNRWA operations have continued on behalf of Palestine refugees throughout the years of conflict in Lebanon and its staff has remained on duty.

77. Under normal circumstances, UNRWA provides services to registered Palestine refugees, who numbered 338,000 as of 30 June 1994. However, in view of the aftermath of the long years of conflict, UNRWA has continued to extend emergency assistance to the entire Palestinian community. UNRWA has also actively participated with other United Nations organizations and international relief organizations in providing assistance to the Lebanese population in general, notably by extending services to needy Lebanese living in proximity to poor Palestinians.

78. In Lebanon, UNRWA provides education services through 76 elementary and preparatory schools, and one secondary school; it has a student body of 34,000, served by a teaching staff of almost 1,300. UNRWA took a decision in late 1993 to open a secondary school in the Beirut area in the light of the lack of access of Palestine refugees in central Lebanon to public-sector schools and the prohibitively high cost of private schools. Construction began on four new schools, while six schools were comprehensively upgraded. A number of schools continued to operate on a double shift, thus depriving students of the benefits of extracurricular activities. The UNRWA vocational training centre operated normally, with over 500 male trainees and over 100 female trainees. UNRWA provided university scholarships to a number of refugee students who had excelled in the Baccalaureate examination.

79. In the field of health care, UNRWA continued to be the main provider of primary and secondary health care to Palestine refugees and other needy Palestinians. Health services were delivered through an expanded infrastructure of 26 health centres and additional specialist clinics and laboratories. Health care was supported by hospital services provided through contractual arrangements with 12 general and two mental hospitals. Following the completion of training for medical and nursing personnel, the provision of essential equipment and the appointment of additional staff, family planning services were provided at 18 UNRWA clinics. Funds were made available for the construction or rehabilitation of a number of health centres, but problems related to environmental health continued to affect a number of camps owing to lack of funds to address such problems. UNRWA was unable to raise the US$ 12 million required to implement development projects for improving infrastructure in the camps for water supply, sewerage and drainage, and solid-waste management facilities. Responding to the urgency of addressing certain needs, UNRWA reprogrammed funds to cover the cost of water and sanitation projects in two camps.

80. UNRWA delivered relief and social services to the refugee community. The Palestine refugee group in Lebanon continued to have the highest proportion of refugees enrolled in the UNRWA special hardship programme, i.e., 10.8 per cent, due to the large number of families without adult males in the household and the restrictions faced by Palestinians in seeking employment in many sectors of the local economy. Many were squatting on previously abandoned property which was being reclaimed by lawful owners or were living in inadequate makeshift huts on wasteland. A survey in early 1994 showed that over 4,000 families had still not found or been provided with satisfactory housing.

81. Despite economic constraints, small-scale enterprise projects for poor families achieved considerable success. Women's committees were trained in the management of community programmes and 3 of the 12 women's programme centres were community-managed by mid-1994. Training in production skills and income generation and literacy was provided at the centres. Over the year, over 100 women attended classes and a legal literacy course was conducted in Ein el-Hilweh camp. Two per cent of the women regularly attending the centres were disabled and UNRWA planned a more concerted effort to integrate them into the programme. The community rehabilitation committees were also trained in programme management and basic financial administration as well as in rehabilitation skills.

82. The budget for regular UNRWA programmes for 1994 for Palestinians was approximately US$ 38 million, with an additional US$ 1.5 million for emergency measures. Of the US$ 38 million, US$ 17.3 million is allotted to education, US$ 7.8 million to health, US$ 7.4 million to relief and social services, US$ 2.5 million to operational services and US$ 2.8 million to common services.

F. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

83. The refugee population benefiting from the protection and/or assistance of UNHCR is estimated at some 6,000 persons in Lebanon, mainly persons from Middle Eastern and African countries. In addition, a group of 1,500 stateless persons has been assisted by UNHCR for many years. As a result of deteriorating economic conditions, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers in need of UNHCR assistance continues to increase.

84. As in previous years, assistance was provided to individuals and families, including subsistence allowance, medical care, counselling and education grants. UNHCR continues to emphasize the promotion of local durable solutions and to that end a legal assistance project has been set up. The project aims to establish a mechanism of cooperation between the Lebanese authorities and UNHCR on naturalization; for example, a workshop on issues related to protection was held in March 1994 to promote a greater awareness of the problems of refugees and stateless persons in Lebanon.

85. In July 1993, UNHCR contributed US$ 100,000 from its Emergency Fund to assist the people displaced as a result of military activities in the south of the country.

G. World Food Programme

86. Food distribution by the World Food Programme (WFP) started in early January 1993, under expansion III of project 524, entitled "Feeding programme for children and youths in institutions and for vulnerable groups in maternity/child health care (MCH) centres". The project duration is four years and the total cost to WFP is US$ 13.2 million. During the project's life, food assistance will benefit 118,000 boarders and day-students in some 170 social institutions; 70,000 pregnant and nursing mothers and preschool children in 35 MCH centres; and 13,000 primary schoolchildren in two primary school canteens. WFP food assistance is intended to help improve the food intake of beneficiaries while they are receiving academic education and/or vocational training in the social institutions; increase the coverage, frequency and quality of prenatal and postnatal consultations for expectant and nursing mothers in MCH centres; and alleviate short-term hunger among primary schoolchildren.

H. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

87. During the period under survey, a US$ 4.2 million project document for implementing the first phase of the Integrated Area Development Programme for the Baalbek Hermel districts (Bekaa Valley) was completed. The contribution of UNDCP to the first phase amounts to US$ 3 million and that of UNDP to US$ 1.2 million. The Programme aims to sustain the eradication efforts of the Government. The first phase envisages the provision of immediate assistance to farmers who have lost their income as a result of eradication campaigns, as well as start-up activities that lead to human sustainable development through agricultural development and the improvement of health, social services, education and non-agricultural income generation.

88. In line with the two-year UNDCP multisectoral drug control project signed in March 1993, UNDCP continued to assist the Government of Lebanon in building an institutional framework for drug control by providing legal advice. In cooperation with the Lebanese authorities, UNDCP held a training course on the enforcement of drug laws for 20 officers in October 1993 and a training course on the management and control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for 20 administrators in December 1993. In January 1994, UNDCP also completed a rapid assessment study on demand reduction for the Beirut area. Technical equipment, including a compatible communications system, was supplied to the Lebanese authorities. An advisory legal mission was undertaken in April 1994 to define a sustainable mechanism for the control and monitoring of illicit cultivation in the Bekaa Valley.

89. UNDCP, in collaboration with FAO as executing agency, is funding a one-year project aimed at surveying and monitoring cannabis and opium cultivation through remote sensing technology. The project was signed in June 1994 and will cost US$ 230,000.

I. International Labour Organization

90. ILO and UNDP launched a project entitled "Rehabilitation and development of accelerated training programme" in late 1993. The project is designed to rehabilitate and develop an adult training centre and has established an updated accelerated training programme for various occupations, particularly for the benefit of unemployed and displaced persons.

91. The ILO, in close collaboration with UNDP, formulated a programme proposal for the technical assistance component of NERP. The proposed programme aims at reconstructing vocational and technical education institutions.

92. Another project proposal, entitled "Labour force and manpower surveys and development of employment offices", is intended to help in the creation of a sound database for the launching of an effective labour-market information system. Formulated as an outcome of the ILO multidisciplinary advisory mission to Lebanon in February and March 1993, the project is expected to commence operations shortly.

93. During the period under review, a number of technical missions to Lebanon were carried out by ILO advisers in the field of employment, employers' activities and international labour standards. Also, ad hoc missions took place on labour legislation and vocational training.

94. As part of a regional survey, a study on the participation of women in Lebanese trade unions was launched and completed during the period under review.

95. Lebanon was invited to participate in a number of regional seminars on various subjects organized by the ILO in close cooperation with UNDP, the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) and the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU).

J. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

96. The FAO field programme in Lebanon consists of 17 projects with a total cost of more than US$ 5 million under three main categories of funding sources: UNDP, the FAO Trust Fund Programme and the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

97. Four FAO/UNDP projects are under way, with a total budget of US$ 2,010,000, in the areas of the rehabilitation and reactivation of the Ministry of Agriculture; the eradication of illicit crops; the rehabilitation of olive cultivation in southern Lebanon; and the quality control of foodstuffs of animal origin. The annual expenditure of the four projects amounted to US$ 482,000 in 1993 and to US$ 964,000 in 1994.

98. Seven trust fund projects are under way, with a total budget of US$ 2,324,000, of which two projects aim at the rehabilitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and strengthening its Planning Department. Three projects operated by the FAO Office for Special Relief Operations (OSRO) provide emergency supplies of fishing equipment and basic agricultural and veterinary inputs to southern Lebanon and West Bekaa, and assist in strengthening agricultural extension. UNDCP is financing one project for the use of remote sensing to identify opium poppy cultivation in the Bekaa Valley. The annual expenditure of the seven projects under the trust fund amounted to US$ 192,000 in 1993 but will increase to US$ 2,415,000 in 1994.

99. Six FAO/TCP projects are under way, with a total budget of US$ 961,000. Under TCP, FAO has continued the rinderpest vaccination campaign started earlier and has installed and put into operation a seed processing plant. In a TCP project costed at US$ 297,000, FAO is providing training programmes for the personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture at both its central and regional offices. In another TCP project, costed at US$ 198,000, FAO is assisting the Government in elaborating regulations and establishing standards of control for the use of pesticides. Under the overall umbrella of sustainable development and environmental preservation, two preparatory assistance projects on the use of compost and communications were recently completed. A full-scale project on the use of compost, costed at US$ 241,000, has just been approved.

100. In October 1993, the FAO Investment Centre mission prepared an Irrigation Rehabilitation and Modernization Project for the World Bank, costed at US$ 62 million. The project was appraised in April 1994 and will soon be launched.

K. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

101. During the reporting period, UNESCO contributed to the reconstruction of Lebanon in the preparation of sectoral or subsectoral programmes, the preparation and launching of projects, and the organization of external contributions for specific cases.

102. In the area of town planning and cultural heritage, UNESCO continued to assist the Lebanese authorities in setting rules and procedures for the management of the archaeological heritage of Beirut and in the implementation of a UNDP/UNESCO project entitled "Rehabilitation of the Directorate General of Antiquities and support for the reconstruction of Beirut City Centre". Further international support has been received from Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. For its part, UNESCO has provided consultants for the archaeological/historical sites. In recent months, successful results have been recorded with the discovery of remains from a Phoenician city, proving the importance and necessity of undertaking such a large-scale project. Additional activities within the framework of the project include the establishment of an International Scientific Committee, the launching of rescue excavations and the preparation of an international fund-raising campaign for the National Museum of Beirut.

103. UNESCO is also implementing the UNDP TOKTEN project, which has received a very positive response. The first consultancy missions are planned for the month of September 1994.

104. UNESCO, in cooperation with UNDP, has formulated a programme approach and project proposals for the rehabilitation of the education sector. Missions have been undertaken for the rehabilitation of the higher education system and a project for cooperation in that subsector is being finalized.

105. UNESCO is also concerned with the issue of the environment in Lebanon. A programme for providing support to policy formulation for sustainable development and environmental preservation in Lebanon is being planned for the near future. It aims to formulate comprehensive plans for the management of environment and resources that can be integrated with country reconstruction and development programmes.

L. World Health Organization

106. WHO participated in the Consolidated Appeal launched by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in August 1993, with programmes totalling US$ 1,250,000.

107. WHO supplied five emergency health kits to cover the health needs of 50,000 persons for a period of three months; it also facilitated the shipment of another five kits that were offered by the Government of Italy.

108. As a result of the Consolidated Appeal, WHO received contributions from the following donors: Italy (US$ 584,000), for the establishment of a central and pharmaceutical warehouse; OPEC (US$ 190,000), for the provision of equipment to public hospitals; and the Council of Arab Ministers of Health (US$ 270,000), for the rehabilitation of health facilities. The contributions covered 76 per cent of the cost of the proposed programmes.

109. WHO is assisting the Government of Lebanon in the following activities:

(a) The establishment of a central and pharmaceutical warehouse, which will include the preparation of a plan of action in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The plan of action will comprise the deployment of pharmaceutical specialists, the rehabilitation of the warehouse, the supply of drugs and equipment, and the training of national pharmacists;

(b) The provision of equipment to public hospitals. An agreement between WHO and OPEC is expected to be reached shortly;

(c) The rehabilitation of health facilities. Activities for the restoration of the facilities and installation of the necessary equipment and supplies are under way.

M. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

110. During the period under review, under the Priority Rehabilitation Programme, a UNDP umbrella project, UNIDO provided a high-level consultant for a duration of two months to advise the Government on the development of an industrial strategy. The consultant elaborated guidelines for the industrial strategy; defined objectives and priorities; and identified issues, prerequisites and policy options for the implementation of the strategy at the macro- and microlevels of the industrial sector.

111. UNIDO also elaborated and approved the following technical projects: (a) Request for advice to the Ministry of Industry and Oil on strategy for the development of the construction sector in the field of industrial development (SI/LES/94/802); and (b) Identification of new technologies for strengthening the competitiveness of Lebanese industry (SI/LEB/94/801). Both projects are being implemented during 1994.

112. In August 1993, a high-level Lebanese delegation, while on an official visit to UNIDO headquarters, discussed the following priority projects: the

establishment of an industrial information centre; the rehabilitation of the Industry Institute; and the establishment of industrial estates.

N. World Bank

113. During the period under review, a US$ 175 million loan provided by the World Bank for the Emergency Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project was declared effective and a total sum of US$ 24 million was disbursed. The Project forms part of the broader NERP, which envisages outlays of US$ 2.3 billion over the 1993-1996 period for the reconstruction of physical and social infrastructure and related technical assistance. The Bank loan is financing high-priority emergency reconstruction in the areas of electricity, water, waste water and solid waste, and education, as well as providing credit for housing and technical assistance.

114. On 29 June 1994, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved two loans for Lebanon: a US$ 57.2 million loan to support an irrigation, rehabilitation and modernization project, and a US$ 19.9 million loan to support a revenue enhancement and fiscal management project.

115. During the period under survey, the Bank also began to prepare a number of possible additional projects.

116. The Bank is preparing to help the Government of Lebanon to mobilize additional external resources for its reconstruction programme by convening a Consultative Group meeting as a follow-up to the December 1991 Donors' meeting; the meeting is tentatively planned for late 1994.

O. International Monetary Fund

117. IMF technical assistance and activities during the period under review were as follows:

	Date	IMF Department	Activity/purpose
1.	6-17 Sept. 1993	Statistics	Compilation of government finance statistics
2.	9-17 Sept. 1993	Fiscal Affairs	Expenditure control
3.	5-18 Oct. 1993	Monetary and Exchange Affairs	Central bank accounting
4.	2-12 Nov. 1993	Statistics	Multi-topic mission on data collection
5.	24 Jan.-4 Feb. 1993	Monetary and Exchange Affairs	Monetary instruments and controls

	Date	IMF Department	Activity/purpose
6.	24 Jan.-4 Feb. 1993	Statistics	Balance-of-payments statistics
7.	12-25 Feb. 1994	Fiscal Affairs	Taxes on goods and services
8.	22-29 April 1994	Fiscal Affairs	Revenue enhancement and fiscal management
9.	27 April-15 May 1994	Middle Eastern Department	Article IV consultations

III. CONCLUSIONS

118. During the reporting period, the economy showed encouraging signs of improvement under the structural and macroeconomic adjustment programme pursued by the Government. That programme set in motion a number of initiatives that have led to an improved economic situation, which currently appears to have been consolidated. The Government has also succeeded in drawing the private sector and Lebanese expatriates into the national reconstruction effort. In addition, the status of public finance is equally encouraging, while the re-establishment of the State's authority in all regions of the country except for the south has contributed to increased donor confidence.

119. The Secretary-General is determined that the United Nations system should continue to play a role in support of national objectives and programmes of national reconstruction and sustained development. However, since the overall situation in Lebanon has shown considerable improvement, the continuation of the UNARDOL programme in its current form is no longer necessary. Consequently, the Secretary-General recommends that it be concluded at the end of 1994 and that the residual functions be entrusted to the resident coordinator.